UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
PREVENTION, PESTICIDES AND
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

July 27, 1999

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Review of Pirimiphos Methyl Incident Reports
DP Barcode D258049, Chemical #108102,

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BACKGROUND

The following data bases have been consulted for the poisoning incident data on the active ingredient Pirimiphos Methyl (PC Code:108102):

1) OPP Incident Data System (IDS) - reports of incidents from various sources, including registrants, other federal and state health and environmental agencies and individual consumers, submitted to OPP since 1992. Reports submitted to the Incident Data System represent anecdotal reports or allegations only, unless otherwise stated. Typically no conclusions can be drawn implicating the pesticide as a cause of any of the reported health effects. Nevertheless, sometimes with enough cases and/or enough documentation risk mitigation measures may be suggested.

2) Poison Control Centers - as the result of a data purchase by EPA, OPP received Poison Control Center data covering the years 1993 through 1996 for all pesticides. Most of the national

Poison Control Centers (PCCs) participate in a national data collection system, the Toxic Exposure Surveillance System which obtains data from about 65-70 centers at hospitals and universities. PCCs provide telephone consultation for individuals and health care providers on suspected poisonings, involving drugs, household products, pesticides, etc.

3) California Department of Food and Agriculture (replaced by the Department of Pesticide Regulation in 1991) - California has collected uniform data on suspected pesticide poisonings since 1982. Physicians are required, by statute, to report to their local health officer all occurrences of illness suspected of being related to exposure to pesticides. The majority of the incidents involve workers. Information on exposure (worker activity), type of illness (systemic, eye, skin, eye/skin and respiratory), likelihood of a causal relationship, and number of days off work and in the hospital are provided.

4) National Pesticide Telecommunications Network (NPTN) - NPTN is a toll-free information service supported by OPP. A ranking of the top 200 active ingredients for which telephone calls were received during calendar years 1984-1991, inclusive has been prepared. The total number of calls was tabulated for the categories human incidents, animal incidents, calls for information, and others.

PIRIMIPHOS METHYL REVIEW

I. Incident Data System

Please note that the following cases from the IDS do not have documentation confirming exposure or health effects unless otherwise noted.

Incident#3266-1

A pesticide incident occurred in 1995, when a man experienced tingling in his leg after he drove around with the chemical, which was in a sandwich bag, in his jeep. No further information on the disposition of the case was reported.

Incident#3368-1

A pesticide incident occurred in 1996, when four workers, who wore latex gloves, applied tags to 1150 steers and experienced burning nose, wheezing, headaches, and dizziness. One employee that has lung problems experienced difficulty breathing. No further information on the disposition of the case was reported.

Incident#3486-1

A pesticide incident occurred in 1996, when a man, who wore protective latex gloves, experienced blisters on his hands and tingling lips which lasted about 36 hours after applying eartags. No further information on the disposition of the case was reported.

Incident#4787-52

One pesticide incident occurred in 1992 which resulted in minor symptoms. Specific symptoms were not mentioned. No further information on the disposition of the case was reported.

Incident#4787-338

One pesticide incident occurred in 1994 which resulted in minor symptoms. Specific symptoms were not mentioned. No further information on the disposition of the case was reported.

II. Poison Control Center Data - 1993-1996

A total of 12 exposures were reported to the Toxic Exposure Surveillance System of the American Association of Poison Control Centers. This is too few cases to permit meaningful comparisons with other pesticides. Two of the 12 cases were thought to have unrelated effects and most of the rest had at most minor effects, primarily headache and nausea. However, there was insufficient follow-up except in three cases to determine final medical outcome. Of the three cases, two had minor effects and one had moderate effects of headache, nausea and blurred vision. Three cases were seen in a health care facility, but none require hospitalization.

III. California Data - 1982 through 1995 - No Data

IV. National Pesticide Telecommunications Network

On the list of the top 200 chemicals for which NPTN received calls from 1984-1991 inclusively, pirimiphos methyl was not reported to be involved in human incidents.

VI. Conclusions

Relatively few incidents of illness have been reported due to pirimiphos methyl.

VII. Recommendations

No recommendations can be made based on the few incident reports available.

cc: Correspondence
Pirimiphos Methyl file (chemical no. 108102)
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